

under almost any circumstances. In this aspect of teaching the emphasis lies on "how" rather than on "what," on method rather than on subject, on process rather than on object.

How to work can be learned regardless of what subject furnishes the material to work on, but the learning process is greatly facilitated by interest in the subject. Since Black Mountain College offers courses in four main fields—the arts, language and literature, science, and the social sciences—students may approach the acquisition of method by the avenue of their preference.

A faculty advisor is appointed for each entering student. The student may choose his own advisor after his first semester. The ratio of teachers to students is one to five or six so that the student receives a considerable degree of personal attention. Except when a student is sure of what he wants to do, the first part of his stay is regarded as a period of investigation; all students who have not previously done so are encouraged to take courses in art, language and literature, science, and the social studies in order that they may discover their major interest through selecting from the known, or that they may gain some understanding of fields other than their own.

Since education at Black Mountain takes place in the setting of a community and is conceived as a balance between the intellectual, creative, and social arts, the academic curriculum is supplemented by practical experience in craftsmanship, physical work, and group responsibilities. In workshops such as bookbinding, printing, weaving, woodworking, students may acquire the rudiments of the manual skills demanded by a craft, as well as an acquaintance with its principles and methods. Pleasure in concrete doing is often as great as pleasure in abstract thinking.

Replacing the usual organization of sports and physical education, the College provides a program of work in connection with maintaining its physical existence. Although it is not required, all members of the community able to do so are expected to share in the work of running the community: upkeep of buildings and grounds, occasional design and erection of new buildings, wood-cutting and road repair; library and administrative work; office, kitchen, housekeeping routines. Actual experience gives a certain manual dexterity and a familiarity with handling tools and with such mechanical techniques as plumbing, carpentry, wiring, fire-fighting, clerical work.

A farm of about 30 acres, owned by the College but operated as an independent unit, provides practical experience in a basic, productive enterprise. Its role is threefold: to furnish milk, meat, vegetables, and eggs to the college kitchen, to improve soil fertility, and to serve as a laboratory for academic subjects bearing on agriculture and its relationship to society.